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Academy land housing plan set to be approved by council

SCHOOL TO SELL FIELD

By Samantha McGregor

PLANS to sell off school playing fields for housing and improved sports facilities look set to be approved.

Banbury AAT Academy, formerly The Banbury School Trust, has submitted outline plans to Cherwell District Council to build 44 properties, an all-weather astroturf pitch with lighting, extension to the sports hall and 13ft outdoor climbing wall at its Ruskin Road site.

Cherwell's officers have recommended the plans are approved when they are discussed by its planning committee today.

In a report, the school said it had no choice but to sell the acre of land after £17m of funding was withdrawn by the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme.

Banbury AAT Academy had been identified as one of four schools in the county most in need of refurbishment.

A report to councillors, prepared by Framptons Planning Consultants, said: "With the withdrawal of this funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme, the school has been left with no realistic means – within the foreseeable future – to secure capital funding to carry out much-needed improvement projects."

The land is at the rear of Springfield Avenue, near retirement flats at Stanbridge House.

No details of the type or size of the homes have been included in the outline plan, but Cherwell's housing officer said 30 per cent should be affordable housing.

As part of the project, the current rugby and football pitches would be realigned and a new cricket square and athletics track relocated.

■ continued on page 3



Players to learn from a pro

Former Oxford United player
Rufus Brevett has been
bringing his footballing skills
to Banbury: See Page 2

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InBRIEF**Chiltern tops punctual list**

■ OXON: Chiltern Railways is the most punctual rail operator in the UK.

Network Rail said 86.3 per cent of trains were on time against the national average of 68.1 per cent in the last four weeks.

It is the fifth period in a row the rail firm, which operates the London to Birmingham line through Banbury, topped the rankings.

Operators First Great Western and CrossCountry scored 69.7 per cent and 46.8 per cent respectively.

New funeral director plan

■ BANBURY: Plans to turn a former children's clothing shop into a funeral directors should be approved despite objections, a council planning officer has said.

Cherwell District Council's Shona King recommended councillors approve the plan for 20 Horton View, Easington, formerly Letto Twinkle Boutique.

Seven letters and a 16-signature petition opposed the plan, with concerns over parking and its "appropriateness" for the area.

Banbury Town Council said it was concerned it would lead to more parking at Horton View Sports Ground.

But applicant Peter Jordan said the business would have enough parking and customers and staff would respect the sport ground's private parking. Councillors will consider the plan today.

Secondary's elite course offers skills and learning Academy to create future footballers



Rufus Brevett, centre, takes training at North Oxfordshire Academy

TALENTED footballers are to be given the chance to excel at the game and gain qualifications in a new course.

North Oxfordshire Academy, in Drayton Road, Banbury, has launched a new course specialising in football for post-16 pupils, which it says is the first of its kind in Oxfordshire.

It will be run by former professional footballer Rufus Brevett, who currently coaches the academy's football teams.

But the Elite Football Academy Programme will give students a chance to take the sport to a new level.

The two-year course, which starts this September, is designed to nurture sporting talent and give pupils the chance to study A-Levels, BTEC or other qualifications alongside it.

Mr Brevett, who played in the Premier

By Samantha McGregor

League with Fulham and West Ham United, and ended his career at Oxford United, said: "I am very pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to the development of talented young people."

"The academy is launching this programme because, too often, footballers leave school without a broad set of qualifications."

"It aims to give those aspiring to a career in sport an opportunity to develop a wide range of qualifications and skills which will enhance their chances of a career in football but will also stand them in good stead to pursue successful careers outside of football."

"Our students will leave us with a good education, whether in the form of A-Levels, BTECs or an FA coaching qualification."

Trials will be held at the school on Wednesday from 1pm.

Successful candidates will receive daily performance training and mentoring, advice on how to develop their careers and gain exposure to professional clubs and scouts, as well as the chance to play in weekly fixtures.

A new elite squad will be set up which will compete in county and national competitions.

North Oxfordshire Academy Principal Sara Billins said: "We are delighted to launch the new Elite Programme this year."

"It will develop well-rounded young sportspeople with a number of exciting options for their future careers."

Oxford United offer an elite programme, but students are not able to study A-Levels.

For more details or to book a trial call the academy on 01295 224300.

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Test centre stays

■ BANBURY: A driving test centre in the town will not shut, bosses announced last week.

The future of the West Bar Street facility was uncertain after the centre's lease ran out on March 31.

But a Driving Standards Agency spokesman confirmed the lease had been renewed for another five years.

He said: "We have agreed a five-year lease to remain on the premises. Negotiations have concluded and I can confirm we will be staying."

Rumours that it would shut down were raised in December after the Driving Standards Agency refused to confirm or deny future plans.

An extra early evening

Store broken into

■ BANBURY: Police are hunting burglars who stole an undisclosed amount of cash, alcohol and cigarettes from Acorn Stores.

They entered the store in Orchard Way via the roof between 9pm on Saturday, April 6, and 8am on Sunday, April 7.

Extra locomotive

■ N OXON: Chiltern Railways is introducing an extra locomotive-powered silver train on London-Birmingham services via Banbury from May, allowing the Class 168 Clubman diesel units to be sent to be smartened up.

Changes to bus services

BUS services in North Oxfordshire have changed after a review of routes.

A new service, the 504, will connect Hornton and Horley to Banbury on Thursdays to take shoppers to the town's market, and the 488 between Chipping Norton and Banbury will have extra early morning and early evening journeys added between Milcombe and Banbury.

Other subsidised routes where current service levels will be maintained are: B1, B2, B5, B7 and B10.

Banbury town services; 90 Upper Heyford-Banbury; 94 Otmoor-Bicester-Oxford; S5 Friday evening services to Ambrosden and Arnott.

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InBRIEF**Stephen runs in marathon**

■ BANBURY: Stephen Round from the town will be taking part in Sunday's London Marathon.

He will be joining more than 1,000 runners from the Mr Men and Little Miss team as they attempt to run over 25,000 miles to mark the 25th anniversary of Children with Cancer UK.

Mr Round, 38, hopes to raise £1,000 himself for the charity.

Mr Round said: "This is the only time in my life I get to feel like a professional sportsperson."

To make a donation visit childrenwithcancer.org.uk

Bring a quid for hospice

■ OXON: People are being urged to bring £1 to work on Friday, April 26, and donate it to Adderbury-based Katharine House Hospice.

Last year's event raised £3,423.

Businesses including Brethertons, Cleenol, dlc, Encase, Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance, Norbar, Wellers Accountants, The Deddington Arms and The Cartwright Arms, and Magdalen College School Sixth Form, have already signed up.

To take part call 01295 812161 or text KHOX17 £1 to 70070.

Curry night for charity

■ DEDDINGTON: People are being urged to book a table at a curry evening and raise cash for Katharine House Hospice.

Hamid Choudhury, of Bengal Spice, New Street, is hosting another curry event on Monday.

There will be two sittings, at 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Tickets cost £20 per person.

Since 2006 the restaurant has raised more than £6,500 for the Adderbury-based hospice.

To book a ticket call the hospice's fundraising team on 01295 812161.

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■ Principal excited as secondary to get tie-in to aerospace industry

Academy's over the moon at space link



Banbury Aspirations Academy District executive principal Dr Fiona Hammans

THE country's first 'space school' has been given the go-ahead – and it will be in North Oxfordshire.

Aspirations Academy Trust, which runs Banbury Academy and primaries Harriers Ground and Dashwood, has been given Department for Education permission to open Space Studio Banbury on the Banbury Academy site in September 2014.

It will be part of the Government's studio schools programme, which has seen 16 schools for 14- to 18-year-olds open, offering a mixture of academic and vocational skills linked to paid work experience.

The trust is hoping to open a second space school at Harwell Oxford for September 2015.

Dr Fiona Hammans, executive principal for Banbury Aspirations Academy District, said the school would exploit links with the National Space Centre and National Space Academy, and would have a strong focus on science and maths.

By Fran Bardsley

She said: "It's about working with employers directly and giving youngsters in Banbury a chance to get a job in one of the fastest growing industries in the UK."

"It's about getting our youngsters into employment, but with a really strong education."

In September 2014, the school will take up to 75 children in Year 10 and a further 75 in Year 12, rising to a total of 300 pupils.

The school day will be significantly different from a conventional secondary, starting at 8am or 8.30am and finishing at 4.30pm to 5pm. By Year 12, pupils will be spending two days a week in paid work.

And they will be at school 44 or 45 weeks of the year, compared to about 39 weeks.

Classes will not be academically selective, but applicants will take a numeracy test to ensure the school has a broad representation of children with different levels of ability.

Instead of shirt and tie, the uniform is likely to be polo shirt and chino trousers.

Pupils will study English, a humanity and a language as well as science and maths, and will take GCSEs and A-Levels alongside vocational and professional qualifications.

Dr Hammans said: "Inevitably in the first few years, youngsters from Banbury will have an advantage because it will be on their doorstep, but we anticipate it would have a much wider reach."

Employers backing the school include Kraft, Dematic and Rational Aviation.

Dr Hammans added: "There is nothing like this in the UK. This will put Banbury on the map."

Capt Apos Katrantzis, of Rational Aviation, said: "We are over the moon to hear that the launch of our Space Studio is a go."

"Young people will have an excellent opportunity to acquire the relevant skills and the lifelong passion that characterises everyone involved in the aerospace sector."

InBRIEF

Burglar jailed for break-ins

■ BANBURY: Adam Sherry, 26, was jailed for six months last week after he admitted three burglaries, handling stolen goods and attempted burglary.

Sherry, of Bretch Hill, targeted sheds, garages and outhouses in villages near Banbury over the Christmas period, police said.

Sgt Richard Miller said there were 30 break-ins over the period and police launched Operation Jetty to catch the culprit.

Among the items stolen were a leaf blower, compressor and bicycle. Sherry was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on Thursday, April 4.

Police urged people to mark tools and equipment with their postcode.

Resignation means ballot

■ HOOK NORTON: A by-election will be held for Hook Norton ward on Cherwell District Council after Tory member Victoria Irvine stepped down because of family commitments.

The poll will be held on Thursday, May 2, the same day as elections for Oxfordshire County Council.

Applications for proxy votes must be received by Wednesday, April 24.

Neighbours oppose plans for homes

■ continued from page 1

Hockey pitches, netball and tennis courts would be resurfaced.

The sports hall would be extended and a fitness suite and new changing facilities built.

Nearby residents have opposed the plans on the grounds of increased traffic, noise and light pollution, loss of playing field and concerns about property values.

Twenty letters were received by the council, plus a petition with 28 signatures.

Maggie Williams, 64, of Stanbridge House, said residents would be unable to use their gardens or open windows if the plans went ahead because of building work.

She said: "I have got terminal cancer and I don't want to spend

my remaining years on a building site."

Banbury Town Council had no objections, but wants to see measures to protect homes from light pollution, and no-waiting restrictions imposed on Ruskin Road.

The plans have been supported by Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association. It said: "We consider that this application seeks to

improve existing facilities and provide new ones.

"We are also supportive of the fact that the new facilities will enable there to be an increased number of playing pitch agreements, and particularly endorse the provision of a formal community use agreement."

The plans were originally submitted last year, but withdrawn.

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InBRIEF**Police officer due in court**

BANBURY: A police officer accused of selling personal information will appear in court again next month.

Thames Valley Pc Sugra Hanif, 26, is charged with obtaining or disclosing personal data and conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office.

Hanif, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, was due to appear with two others at Winchester Crown Court on Monday for a plea and case management hearing, but the case was adjourned until May 20.

In February, a trial date was provisionally set for July 29.

Bank is given a big revamp

BANBURY: A revamped branch of Barclays bank has been unveiled in the town.

The Bridge Street building has been restyled and refurbished with an opening event featuring the Barclays Premier League trophy.

Manager Kimberley Gale said: "The investment confirms our commitment to the town centre in Banbury."

Appeal for a spring clean

N OXON: Volunteers are being sought to give Cherwell district a spring clean.

Cherwell District Council will provide equipment like bags and litter-pickers for this month's volunteer clean-up.

Almost 40 groups are taking part from areas including Banbury.

The campaign has collected more than 30 tonnes since 2004. To take part email gabi.kaiser@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call 01295 221962.

Getting a snapshot of Artweeks 2013



Photographer Jane Stillwell

AS almost 1,000 artists prepare to open their doors to the public for Oxfordshire Artweeks, photographer Jane Stillwell has gone behind the scenes to discover what inspires some of the painters, sculptors, designers and potters taking part – And was surprised at what she found. Debbie Waite reports

FROM marmalade-making to trampolining, Jane Stillwell's Artweeks Taster exhibition is a light-hearted look at what inspires some of the North Oxfordshire artists taking part in this year's Artweeks festival.

Mrs Stillwell, from Great Rollright, said: "I took my camera out into the villages around Banbury and Chipping Norton to discover the activities that provide the inspiration for our local designer-makers.

"All the artists were delighted to be involved – although taking photos on the hoof was quite a challenge at times.

"I photographed over 40 local artists in their own environments and when I went to meet many of them I didn't know what to expect.

"I hadn't met many of them before and then, from a quick chat, had to capture their passion and inspiration with a sense of fun and that twinkle in their eye."

As a result, artists are captured doing everything from riding a hobby horse to hugging trees.

Artweeks is Oxfordshire's largest visual arts festival, a three-week celebration in May each year of the county's artistic and creative talent, and the UK's oldest and biggest Open Studios event.

Almost 1,000 artists open their studios and welcome the public to see their creations and watch them work.

And last year approximately 100,000 people visited nearly 500 exhibitions and events

across the county. All exhibitions are free.

Oxfordshire Artweeks 2013 will run from May 4-27 and is organised into three geographical areas.

These are Oxford Exhibitions: May 4-12; South Oxfordshire Exhibitions: May 11-19; and North Oxfordshire Exhibitions: May 18-27.

Jane Stillwell's Artweeks Taster exhibition is at Chipping Norton Theatre from May 4-16.

Pauline Nolan and Wendy Todd are exhibiting together this year, with an acrylic and embroidery collection called *Fantasy and Fabrication* at Wendy's garden studio in Churchill and were inspired by one of the garden's 'residents'.

Pauline, 60, said: "When Jane Stillwell asked to photograph us we chose the hobby horse in Wendy's garden to pose with because it is fun and that's what we think our exhibition is too. This is my first time and Wendy's second Artweeks and we are very excited about taking part. We haven't actually seen the photograph yet, but are very much looking forward to going along as soon as the exhibition opens."

When she's not making ceramic and glasswork, Sally Lyon, 46, can often be found bouncing away happily on her five-year-old son Joe's trampoline. She said: "This will be my fourth Artweeks and when Sally said she wanted to photograph me doing something fun, I jumped on the trampoline and before I knew it she had snapped away.

"Artweeks is a great scheme

and I get a lot of enjoyment out of people coming along, looking at my work and telling me what they think of it. This has been a hobby while Joe has been small, but now he is going to school I want to expand and I'm hoping Artweeks can also help with that."

Susan Frater and Kate Wilson are exhibiting their work at the new Winebear fine wine shop in Chipping Norton and decided to put themselves on display too – in the shop window.

Mrs Frater, 42, a mum-of-two and drama teacher at Blessed George Napier School in Banbury, said: "When Jane took our picture from outside, people started to stop to see what was going on, which was quite amusing."

The women have called their exhibition *Fragments*. Mrs Frater explained: "Both of us have children, I have two and Kate has four, and I create my hand-cast pewter jewellery and Jane paints in the fragments of time we have available to us."

Crabby Taylor from Chipping Norton is a Raku ceramist which means that after creating her beautiful pots she leaves them to smoulder in a dustbin for several days. When she's not creating pots she can be found working behind the bar at Chipping Norton Theatre.

She said: "I have been involved in Artweeks for 14 years now and enjoy the diverse mix of artists who take part. Art, for me, should be fun."

For more information on all the artists taking part in Artweeks visit artweeks.org

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Primary school places decided

OXON: Families have been finding out this week where their children will be going to primary school in September

Oxfordshire County Council education cabinet member Melinda Tilley, pictured, said she was confident parents would be notified on time, following problems last year with the online application system.

Last year, about 6,500 families who applied for school places were left in the dark after software designed and operated by Capita One failed to confirm receipt of online applications.

Emails were not sent out and people had to wait for written confirmation to arrive through the post.

Parents were due to be informed by email on Tuesday if they applied online, and letters were posted first-class to all other applicants.

The council has received more than 7,300 applications for 8,000 places countywide.

Did you fail to get a place at any of your three preferred schools? Call reporter Fran Bardsley on 01865 425439.



Gardener and sculptor at flower show Pair getting set to impress at Chelsea



Hamish Mackie and Liz Nicholson are on their way to the Chelsea Flower Show

DESIGNERS, plant-lovers and sculptors across North Oxfordshire are gearing up for their gardening Mecca.

The county's greatest gardeners are pulling together their designs for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show next month.

The world's most prestigious flower show, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, is celebrating its centenary.

Some 12 county exhibitors will attend the show between May 21

By Katriona Ormiston and Tom Burrows

and May 25, which is set to attract 150,000 visitors.

Hock Norton wildlife sculptor Hamish Mackie is putting the finishing touches to his bronze and silver creatures.

The 39-year-old said: "I'm really looking forward to it. At Chelsea, you see the crème de la crème of the gardening world and watching all

the gardens spring up is amazing.

"I went to Africa so I have been sculpting animals like leopards and cheetahs, and I also have a life-sized camel from a trip to Dubai."

North Aston garden designer Liz Nicholson, 46, said: "I am really looking forward to it. Last year I was there building a garden for someone else so it is great to be able to build my own.

"The garden has a nod to the past in the design but the material of galvanised metal shows a hint of the future."

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InBRIEF

Post office move to increase its hours

BANBURY: Hillview Crescent Post Office will open longer under plans to move it into Hillview Stores next door.

The Post Office has launched a consultation on the plans, which would see services delivered from the retail counter. It would open from 7am-10pm in the week, instead of 8.30am or 9am-5.30pm at present.

The counter would be open from 8am-10pm on Saturday and from 8am to 9pm on Sunday. It currently opens from 9am-12.30pm on Saturday and is closed on Sunday.

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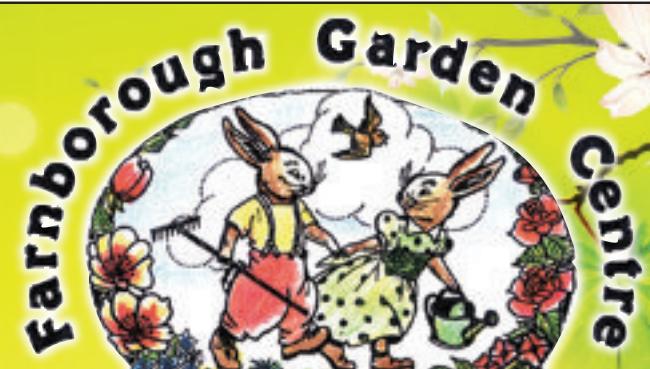
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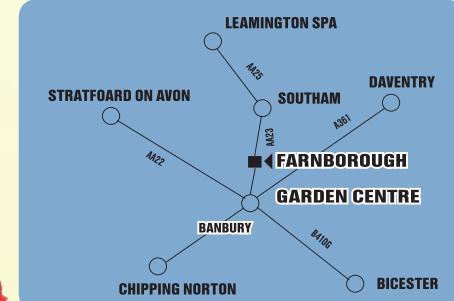
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■ Aluminium company nearing anniversary

Hi-tech firm reaps legacy of 'the Ally'

By Chris Koenig

FOR decades aluminium was to Banbury what cars and pressed steel were to Oxford, with the Canadian-owned Alcan factory in Southam Road – or ‘the Ally’ as it was colloquially called – employing 5,000 people at its height.

The arrival of Northern Aluminium (as it was then) in 1931 rocketed Banbury into the modern age, according to Oxford University tutor Margaret Stacey, writing in her 1950s social survey: *Tradition and Change: A Study of Banbury*.

Until then that part of the county, sometimes referred to as Banburyshire, was in a sorry state with what few industries that existed at all being very old fashioned.

But just as workers flocked to William Morris’s car factory in Oxford from all parts of the country, so they did to Banbury, often trekking hundreds of miles and sleeping rough in hedgerows on the way.

But Banbury did not win the factory without a fight. The landowners of the 16-hectare site wanted £12,000; the Canadians would pay no more than £10,000. Neither would budge and it looked like stalemate until, that is, the difference was raised by public subscription.

With such a history, it is cheering to see a descendant of Alcan still flourishes in Banbury, drawing on skills nurtured there long ago.

When Alcan closed its research centre, across the road from the splendid Art Deco gate houses of the works in 2003, the spirit of innovation that it had fostered lived on in the shape of new company Innoval Technology.

This is now a leading consultancy in the global aluminium industry, employing 26 engineers and scientists and still looking for more.

Innoval managing director Tom Farley, who originally joined Alcan in 1989, explained: “During the 1990s Alcan’s Banbury laboratory was one of the top three aluminium technical centres in the world. In 2002 Alcan decided to close the Banbury laboratory but wanted to retain the expertise of 44 senior staff.”

“It wanted all these staff to move to other technical centres in Switzerland and Canada. Alcan recognised that not everyone would want to move country and so supported the option for some employees to start their own company in



Innoval Technology managing director Tom Farley

Banbury. That company, Innoval Technology, was formed in May 2003 and 25 ex-Alcan employees joined the company at the start.

“Innoval was 100 per cent owned by its employees and started with a large and tapering contract from Alcan. Understandably this contract came with significant trading restrictions – for example, no work was allowed for other aluminium companies for several years. Innoval’s challenge was to grow new business to counter the tapering contract.

“Innoval has been successful in growing new business with more than 300 companies worldwide, working for aluminium rolling companies, extrusion companies, end users of aluminium sheet and extrusion and also with investors in the industry.”

Today Innoval still numbers 20 of those original engineers from Alcan among its staff, although Dr Farley notes that little of the aluminium industry is based in the UK anymore. Now, more than 80 per cent of its revenue comes from overseas.

What is clear is that in a fast-developing industry such as aluminium, outsourcing makes sense – and that is where Innoval comes into its own. The salient point here is that large companies, be they in the

automotive industry, or aerospace, or perhaps soft drink can manufacturers, need frequent access to a wide range of skills from experts in the field – but they don’t need them all the time.

And that makes for exciting times for Innoval. Last year the consultancy was bought up by Italian giant Danieli, one of the world’s biggest suppliers of plant and equipment to the metals industry, thereby giving it far greater clout worldwide.

Dr Farley said: “It was a good move and in no way impairs our independence as a consultancy.”

He added: “These are exciting times too for the industry as a whole. For years it has seemed the automotive industry would change over to using aluminium instead of steel, but now it is really happening.”

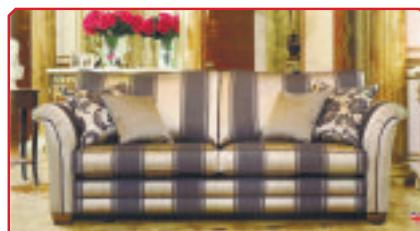
“Many of the premium automotive manufacturers in Europe will utilise aluminium in future vehicle design in the drive to improve fuel economy.”

Over the past seven years Innoval has trained 350 people from 33 different countries. It will have much to celebrate on its 10th birthday: May day this year.

It remains a prime example of innovation remaining at home even when the industry goes elsewhere.

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Ben Horsman, 20, of Queens Road, Banbury, admitted assault by beating in Leys House, Park Close, Banbury, on February 6. Community order made with domestic violence programme for 27 days and 24-month supervision requirement. Told to pay £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

Beverley Napier, 51, of Begbroke Lane, Begbroke, admitted speeding in Church Road, Church Hanborough, on June 8. Was driving at 53mph in a 30mph zone. Fined £165 and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £65 costs. Given six points on driving licence.

Adam Judge, 28, of Harlech Close, Banbury, admitted using threatening words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress on

February 11 in Banbury. Fined £40 and told to pay £20 victims' surcharge.

James Sprigg, 28, of Lancaster Place, Carterton, convicted of driving without due care and attention and without insurance in Fulbrook on April 18. Fined £450, told to pay £15 victims' surcharge, £775 costs and £550 compensation. Given eight points.

Peter Fitzharris, 34, of Alvescot Road, Alvescot, admitted having a golf club, an offensive weapon, in a public place in Alvescot Road and using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour in Carterton on June 26. Fined £360 and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £500 costs.

Anthony Krishnarajah, 26, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, convicted of receiving

InBRIEF

three stolen bluetooth headsets worth £134.97 from Maplins in Castle Quay, Banbury, on September 8. Community order made with two-month curfew requirement. Told to pay £310 costs.

Daniel Dyer, 23, of Bader Drive, Upper Heyford, admitted using threatening words or behaviour to cause harassment alarm or distress in Sheep Street, Bicester, on March 2. Fined £250 and told to pay £25 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

Thomas Keenan, 22, of Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, admitted being drunk and disorderly in a public place in Horsefair, Banbury, on March 1. Fined

£83 and told to pay £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

Jonathan Betts, 29, of Carterton Mobile Home Park, convicted of using a TV without licence between September 7-18 at his home address. Fined £200 and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £90 costs.

Terry Wheeler, 29, of Westfield Road, Witney, admitted fishing without a licence on August 18 at Brasenose Lake 1, Linear Fisheries, Stanton Harcourt. Fined £40 and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £127 costs.

James Smith, 24, of Howard Road, Banbury, admitted stealing three bottles of perfume worth £160 from Debenhams in Magdalen Street, Oxford. Admitted committing a further

offence while subject to a community order made on January 2 for theft. Community order made with 160-hour unpaid work requirement. Told to pay £60 victims' surcharge. Further offence taken into consideration.

Daniel Hanwell, 19, of Middleton Road, Banbury, admitted stealing three aftershaves worth £102.50 from Debenhams in Magdalen Street, Oxford, on February 21. Given 21-day detention, suspended for six months. Told to pay £80 victims' surcharge.

Shaun Smith, 24, of Redmaynes, Ham Lane, Aston, near Bampton, admitted assault by beating on February 26 in Market Square, Witney. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

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**Firm blames fuel price
Passengers facing rise in bus fares**

By Mark Taylor

BUS passengers are facing another annual inflation-busting fare hike.

Stagecoach has announced plans to increase ticket prices later this month with some daily tickets hiked by as much as 11.5 per cent.

This year's average rise is three per cent, while last year the firm raised prices by an overall five per cent.

This year's three per cent average rise – which comes into force on April 28 – is the second year in a row prices have gone up more than inflation.

Currently the consumer price index measure of inflation, which includes fuel prices, is 2.7 per cent. This time last year it was three per cent.

Stagecoach blamed the fare increases on rising costs of fuel, spare parts, and the running of its depots.

The cost of a Banbury dayrider has gone up from £2.80 to £2.90 for adults, and from £1.80 to £1.90 for children.

Students and young people have been hit hardest of all as the cost of a term ticket will rise 11.5 per cent from £78 to £87.

An annual term ticket will go from £247 to £270, a rise of 9.3 per cent.

Hugh Jaeger, chairman of Bus Users UK Oxford Group, said it was a tough time for bus companies following the collapse of two bus companies last year.

Brackley-based Jeffs Coaches, which served students in the Bicester and Banbury area, and Witney firm RH Transport, which also ran school buses, both went under.

Mr Jaeger said Government cuts to the fuel duty grant meant operators were losing money.



Hugh Jaeger

The Bus Service Operators' Grant, formerly the fuel duty rebate, dropped by 25 per cent last year, effectively meaning a 12p rise in the cost of a litre of diesel for bus companies.

He added: "Many of these increases are above inflation but fuel tax money was taken away from bus companies."

"We are finding that companies can no longer hold off putting prices up."

The managing director of Stagecoach Oxfordshire, Martin Sutton, said: "Unfortunately we have had to take some difficult decisions but we have done our best to keep fare changes to a minimum."

"We are facing continued rising costs in a number of areas of our business."

Last year Stagecoach reported operating profits of £237m.

Founder and boss Sir Brian Souter switched from chief executive to company chairman and pocketed £51m following a share pay-out last year.

According to the company accounts the windfall was on top of his £876,000-a-year salary package.

Prior to 2012 Stagecoach previously raised fares in Oxfordshire in July 2009.

Rogue trader is given more time to pay £50k

Danger continues at level crossing site

TERRIFIED drivers are risking their lives by stopping on a controversial level crossing because they don't trust the safety barriers, it was claimed.

An investigation by the Banbury Cake's sister paper the *Oxford Mail* found 24 drivers in just one hour came to a complete standstill on the crossing at Sandy Lane near Yarnton.

People living nearby have raised a series of safety concerns after the crossing was the site of a fatal crash earlier this year.

Tom Pizsey, 85, of Banbury, died when the car he was inside was hit by a freight train on January 2 this year.

Drivers risk becoming trapped by the barriers should a train approach in the distance and trigger the treadle which pulls the barriers down before they can pull away.

The problem came to light during a meeting between Network Rail representatives and Cherwell district councillors earlier this month.

During the 20-minute meeting beside the crossing, about six drivers were spotted stopping to peer down the railway line to make sure a train was not approaching.

Drivers slowing and stopping prompted Network Rail's level crossing manager for Thames Valley East Alan Durham to call,



"Go on, drive on" in between answering the councillors' queries.

He said: "That is a huge problem. People do all sorts of crazy things on a level crossing, like reverse back."

Then during one hour on April 9, a reporter counted 24 cars out of 161 stopping completely on the crossing and another 11 slowing to a crawl.

Cherwell district councillor Alaric Rose, for Kidlington North, said: "Drivers are nervous considering what happened in January.

"They probably won't be com-

From left, Alan Durham of Network Rail and councillors Alaric Rose and Michael Gibbard at the Sandy Lane level crossing

pletely reassured until the investigation is over.

"It is extremely dangerous – never drive on to a level crossing until the road is clear on the other side, and never stop on a crossing."

Network Rail last month revealed there had been 11 faults at the Sandy Lane level crossing near Yarnton in 2012, and 15 at nearby Yarnton Lane level crossing.

The details were only exposed after Mr Pizsey's death, which is being investigated by British Transport Police.

A ROGUE trader has been given more time to pay back part of an £800,000 haul he swindled from pensioners.

Mark Shepherd and Scott Jackson have already served jail sentences for targeting an elderly academic and a dementia sufferer in Oxford during a three-year scam.

At Oxford Crown Court on Tuesday, April 9, Shepherd, of The Beeches Caravan site, Chipping Norton, asked for more time to repay £50,000.

The 46-year-old was told in October last year he would face 18 months in jail if the money was not found within three months, but sought an extension earlier this year.

Daren Samat, defending, said his client had agreed with his sister they would sell her house to raise the money, but the sale had run into problems.

The following year, an 81-year-old retired Oxford University academic forked out £506,880 for building work which was worth no more than £55,000.

He said: "The difficulty has been in selling the property because it has a structural problem.

"It was hoped that the purchaser would repair it after buying the property, but now they want that to be done before."

Judge Patrick Eccles gave Shepherd until May 7 to provide evidence that the sale was taking place.

He also ordered him to pay £2,000 within 14 days "to show that he is serious about repaying".

In March 2004, the two men told an 85-year-old dementia sufferer that one of her chimneys was tilting and tiles needed replacing.

Over 15 months she paid them a total of £364,906 for work which should have cost just £30,000.

The following year, an 81-year-old retired Oxford University academic forked out £506,880 for building work which was worth no more than £55,000.

InBRIEF

Jailed over replica gun

BANBURY: A man has been jailed for possessing a replica firearm in a public place.

Nathan Hawkins, of The Causeway, Banbury, was handed a four-month sentence at Oxford Crown Court on Monday for waving an imitation handgun in the air in Banbury town centre.

On September 9 last year the 24-year-old was seen brandishing the replica while talking "aggressively" into a mobile phone.

He was due to stand trial for possession with intent to cause fear of violence, but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge on April 9.

Body found in pub toilet

CHIPPING NORTON: A man who was found dead in an Oxford pub has been formally identified.

Lee Cooper, 41, was found dead in a locked toilet of the Jericho Tavern on March 30.

The Chipping Norton resident was found at 9pm by a member of the public.

Police are treating the death as unexplained but not suspicious. An inquest by Oxfordshire Coroner's Court opened on April 9.

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Although we strive to avoid errors, some may slip through the net. If you find an error of fact, please write to the Editor, Simon O'Neill, at Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ, or telephone him on 01865 425450. It is our policy to correct mistakes where it is appropriate.

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Mum-of-two taking part in cycle ride for Breast Cancer Care

Family motivation to support charity



Michelle Holdsworth

MICHELLE Holdsworth will be using pedal power at one of two major events aiming to raise thousands for a breast cancer charity.

The 34-year-old mum-of-two will take part in the Pink Ribbonride at Woodstock's Blenheim Palace on Sunday, May 12.

The 26- or 60-mile course takes place a day after a Pink Ribbonwalk at the West Oxfordshire stately home.

The aim is to raise over £50,000 for the Breast Cancer Care charity, which offers support for breast cancer sufferers and their families.

Mrs Holdsworth, 34, from Hook Norton, said: "I don't know exactly how it came to be that I signed up.

"A friend, Kelly Spooner, from my village, told me she wanted to do it and asked if I was interested – and before I knew it we were out on 7.30am cycle rides!"

Mum to Ellis, five, and Emily two, Mrs Holdsworth added: "I'm not a great cyclist, but I do enjoy it and I have

By Debbie Waite

wanted to help a cancer charity for some time as I have sadly a lot of family history with cancer.

"My dad, Cledwyn Roberts, died from lung cancer 12 years ago, and a year after that my aunt died of ovarian cancer. My grandmother also had breast cancer.

"My brothers have both run the marathon for cancer charities, but there's no way I am fit enough for that.

"This will be a challenge – 26 miles is a long way and I'm sure the highlight will be the finish line.

"But I think it will give me a real sense of achievement and I hope to raise several hundred pounds for Breast Cancer Care."

The Pink Ribbonride is open to men and women and suitable for both new and experienced cyclists.

Both routes take participants through the stunning grounds of Blenheim Palace out into the surrounding villages.

Actress Amanda Mealing, who starred in the BBC1 drama *Holby City*, and has supported Breast Cancer Care since she was diagnosed with breast cancer 10 years ago, attended the Pink Ribbonride at Blenheim Palace in 2012.

She said: "I was diagnosed with breast cancer 24 hours after my second son was born, and just afterwards the breast cancer nurse gave me some pamphlets from Breast Cancer Care.

"From there on I have found the charity a wonderful support. Even if you have a really silly question that you would feel uncomfortable asking face-to-face, with Breast Cancer Care you have their forums, or you can ask by email or over the phone. It is just an amazing organisation."

To take part register at www.breastcancercare.org.uk/ribbonride

Registrations fees are £30 for the 26-mile course and £35 for the 60-mile course with a fundraising target of £100. People raising £150 will receive a free Team Breast Cancer Care cycling jersey.



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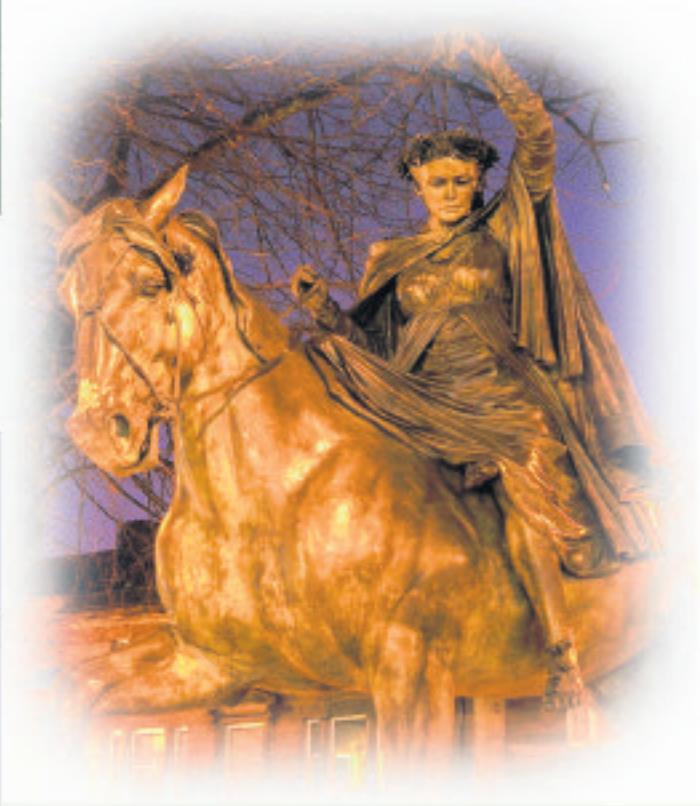
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Authors chip in for festival



Chipping Norton Literary Festival director Clare Mackintosh

BOOK lovers will be able to listen to big-name authors in small venues at Chipping Norton Literary Festival this week.

The event will take place across 10 venues in the town and feature 50 discussions, workshops and children's events.

Writers include *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* author Tracy Chevalier and *We Need to Talk About Kevin* writer Lionel Shriver.

Author and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins and the comedians behind BBC Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* will also discuss their latest books.

The festival runs from today until Sunday.

Festival director Clare Mackintosh said: "We have got 50 events, over four days at 10

different venues, so it will take over the whole town."

"People who come to Chipping Norton will get a real festival buzz from the event."

"We have got what perhaps you do not get at other festivals, which is a real sense of proximity to the authors. We bring big names to small venues."

"So, we have JJ Moyes at the back room of the Blue Boar, which has got 50 seats, but she normally speaks to audiences of hundreds."

"People will get a real opportunity to meet their favourite authors up close."

"These are very well known, very commercial authors who write books that a lot of us have scattered around the house. We will bring your bookshelf to life."

The event will also feature children's activities, including

Oxfordshire Play Bus visiting the town centre on Saturday and Sunday.

Organisers have also put on a real-life Where's Wally hunt, in which people will search the town for cardboard cutouts of the character.

This year's festival will have its line-up tweaked, after feedback from last year, so fewer events clash and workshops are longer and more in-depth.

Mrs Mackintosh said: "Chipping Norton is a great place to hold a literary festival."

"We have got an award-winning bookshop and theatre and we have got some fantastic writers who live in and around the area."

"What it does bring all these things together to make for a fantastic festival."

■ Go to chilipfest.com

Literary Festival highlights

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Tomorrow, Rich Peppiat.

One rogue reporter

delivers a merciless dissection of his former trade, testing the public's right to know to its side-splitting extremity.

£12. 7.45pm.

Saturday, Philip Beardy Ardagh. Join the creator of *The Grunts* for a world of madcap mayhem.

£8.50. 1pm. £8.50.

Saturday, *Big Brother* with Lionel Shriver, pictured. The new novel from the author of *We Need to Talk about Kevin*.

£12. 4pm.

Saturday, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, with Barry Cryer, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden

and Colin Sell at the piano. £12. £12. 6.30pm.

Saturday, *Silly Songs of Shakespeare* - Fearg and the Sonnettes.

Comic timing, musicality and a joyful exploration of the Bard. £12. 8.45pm.

Sunday, *The BFG*. Anthony Peden performs a storytelling performance of

Roald Dahl's classic. £8.50. 3pm.

Sunday, Richard Dawkins. *The Magic of Reality*, his first book for a family audience. £12. 10am.

Sunday, Jack Straw, *The Last Man Standing*. Straw's memoirs give the story of how he spent 13 years in

Government. £12. 1pm. Sunday, *Getting Away With Murder*. Festival patron Mark Billingham chairs a line-up of best-selling crime authors, including Val McDermid, Stuart MacBride and Martyn Waite. £12. 5.30pm. Box office: 01608 642350, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10-2pm.

The Crown and Cushion Hotel, Chipping Norton: Television presenter Fern Britton, pictured, discusses her novel *Hidden Treasures* on Sunday.

The Blue Boar Inn, Chipping Norton: Tracy Chevalier, author of *Girl with a Pearl*

Earring, discussing her new novel *The Last Runaway* on Sunday.

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Departs 10 July 2013

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Departs 2 Jun, 3 Aug & 15 Sep 2013

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Price includes

- Coach travel throughout
- One night's bed and continental breakfast in a good hotel in the Greater London area
- Admission to the Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum exhibition at the British Museum
- Shopping and sightseeing in London
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Departs 17 May 2013

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Price includes

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- Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast
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- Entrance to Fontainebleau chateaux
- Entrance to Monet's Garden

Centenary Year!



The RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Departs 23 May 2013

Enjoy the very best show gardens and floral displays along with the latest trends and expert advice from top garden designers, nurseries, plantsmen and exhibitors. This spectacular event already attracts visitors from all continents and is extensively covered by the media, so with 2013 being the 100th year it promises to be a very special show indeed!

Price includes

- Private coach travel from your local area
- One night stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visit to London
- Full day entrance to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

4 days from
£289.00



Normandy, Honfleur & the D Day Beaches

Departs 17 May 2013

Dive into the past on this great short break to the beautiful Normandy Coast in northern France.

Price includes

- Private coach travel throughout
- Return ferry crossings from Dover to Calais
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast in the Rouen area
- Walking tour of Rouen
- Visit to Honfleur
- Visit to see the Bayeux Tapestry
- Drive along the Normandy D day beaches

4 days from
£259.00



Haworth 1940's Weekend

Departs 23 May 2013

Whatever your age, we all have a fascination with life during the Second World War. So join us on the Home Front as we step back in time to experience Britain in the 1940's, when air raid sirens, food rations, military troops and vehicles were a part of everyday life.

Price includes

- Private coach travel from your local area
- One night stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visits to York and Haworth

Stratford & Warwick

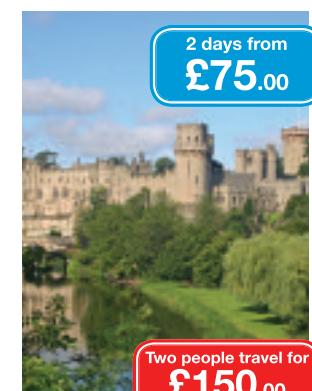
Departs 25 May 2013

Visit Shakespeare country with its rolling countryside, quaint timber framed houses and attractions connected with the bard William Shakespeare. The crowning glory of nearby Warwick, the county town of Warwickshire, has to be Warwick Castle.

Price includes

- Private coach travel from your local area
- One night bed and cooked breakfast
- Visits to Warwick & Stratford-upon-Avon

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Olympic London & Thames Cable Car

Departs 1 June 2013

Join us in the heart of our nation's capital, where we view the incredible array of buildings that made up the Olympic Village.

Price includes

- Private coach travel throughout
- One night dinner, bed and cooked breakfast
- Visit to Windsor
- Tour with a Blue Badge Guide
- Trip on the Emirates Air Line Cable Car
- Free time in Royal Greenwich

2 days from
£109.00



Ullapool & The Isle of Skye

Departs 1 May 2013

Stay in the popular fishing village of Ullapool, you can enjoy a variety of excursions including a visit to Skye, recently voted '4th best island in the world' by National Geographic magazine.

Price includes

- Private coach travel throughout
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- Free time in Ullapool
- Visit to the Isle of Skye
- Visit to Gairloch and The Western Lochs
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Trooping the Colour, London & Windsor

Departs 1 May 2013

Join us for this impressive display of pageantry, which is carried out by fully trained and operational troops from the Household Division, with over 1400 officers and men, 200 horses and 400 musicians.

Price includes

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- One night stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
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- Visit to London to see Trooping the Colour followed by free time

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Looks aren't enough for post-apocalyptic thriller

OBLIVION (12A, 125 minutes) Sci-Fi/Thriller/Action/Romance. Tom Cruise, Olga Kurylenko, Andrea Riseborough, Morgan Freeman, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Melissa Leo. Director: Joseph Kosinski.

If PLANET Earth was decimated by a series of earthquakes and tsunamis, followed by an alien invasion designed to exterminate the pockets of human resistance, you'd stake money on Tom Cruise emerging unscathed from the melee.

The 50-year-old actor has survived three divorces, a risible Irish accent in *Far & Away* and the very public humiliation of leaping around on Oprah Winfrey's sofa with his box office cache and nice-guy reputation intact.

Cruise has repeatedly foregone stunt doubles to perform death-defying feats on camera, including clambering up the world's tallest skyscraper for the most recent *Mission: Impossible* and riding a motorcycle at high speed during a bull run for *Knight & Day*.

When extra-terrestrials demand "Take us to your leader", more than likely it will be Cruise charming the invaders into submission.

In *Oblivion*, a ponderous post-apocalyptic thriller based on the graphic novel by Joseph Kosinski and Arvid Nelson, Cruise is one of the last men standing after planet Earth is reduced to a radiation-poisoned wasteland by a pernicious race called Scavs.

Survivors have been evacuated to Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, leaving behind small teams to protect the giant machines that extract vital resources to power mankind's new home.

Drone maintenance officer Jack Harper (Cruise) and his partner, tech operator Victoria Olsen (Andrea Riseborough), are two weeks away

Olga Kurylenko and Tom Cruise in *Oblivion*



from retirement on Titan when he rescues an astronaut (Olga Kurylenko) from a crashed space shuttle.

This gung-ho act, in direct violation of orders from controller Sally (Melissa Leo), brings the former Marine into contact with a grizzled resistance leader, Malcolm Beech (Morgan Freeman), and his right-hand man (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau).

"It's time to learn the truth," booms Malcolm, hinting at a convoluted conspiracy that provides Cruise with the perfect excuse to perform impressive acrobatics amid a blitzkrieg of expensive pyrotechnics and digital effects.

Oblivion looks stunning, especially on a giant IMAX screen, with a lightly colour-bleached palette that accentuates cold metal

greys and blues. Director Kosinski, who previously made *TRON: Legacy*, orchestrates the pivotal action sequences with breathless aplomb, including an aerial chase in a spacecraft.

Looks aren't everything, though, and the script's philosophical musings about humanity and self-sacrifice are almost as flimsy as the central love triangle that fails to ignite the emotional afterburners.

Cruise's portentous voiceover is matched by an orchestral score peppered with discordant rumbles that conjure fonder memories of Hans Zimmer's work on the *Dark Knight* trilogy and *Inception*.

Freeman is wasted in a malnourished supporting role, while Riseborough and Kurylenko shed perfectly shaped tears on cue.

We're not so easily moved.



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CakeWhat's on

Theatre

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Apr 18, Arthur Smith Exposed. 7.45pm. £15, concs £13

Music

SATURDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Nine Below Zero. £16. 8pm. 01295 279002

Banbury Trades and Labour Club. 1-6pm, family £1. 7.30pm-1am, live ska and reggae from Balf Robertson and the Duckworths followed by a DJ set from the Banbury Soul Club. £5. 07944 605798

WEDNESDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Show of Hands. Accompanied by double bass player/vocalist Miranda Sykes, together with Rex Preston (mandolin and vocals). £17. 8pm. 01295 279002

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: *Evil Dead*, 18, daily 6pm, 8.15pm. *Iron Man III*, 12A, Thu 12.01am, daily 2.40, 5.50, 9pm. *Oblivion*, 12A, daily 3pm, 5.45, 8.30pm. *The Croods*, U, Sat 10.45am, Sat-Sun 1pm; (3-D) Sat 12.30pm, daily 3.30pm. *Odeon Kids: Ice Age 4: Continental Drift*, U, Sat 10.45am, Sun 11am. Senior Screen: *Quartet*, Wed 11am. 0871 224 4007

The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton: *The Sessions*, 15, Tue 7.30pm. *Flight*, 15, Wed 15, Fri 7.30pm. *Flight*, 15, Wed

7.30pm. 01608 642350

Events

THURSDAY: Patriotic Foodies Farmers' Market: The Institute, The Green, Adderbury. Support local producers - cut the food miles. Includes a short talk by one of the producers. 6.30-8.30pm. Free admission. 07811 734391

MONDAY: Tai Chi: Ex-Servicemen's Hall, Banbury Road, Bloxham. A gentle introduction. Soothing slow movement softens and strengthens the body, relaxes the mind and releases tension and strain. An easy-to-learn sequence of just 16 moves. 12.15pm. Free. 01295 720881

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Keeper pulls off a string of stops to ensure United get back to winning ways after a run of defeats

Carter saves the day for Puritans

GOALKEEPER Warren Carter was the hero as Banbury ended a run of three Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division defeats with victory at the play-off contenders.

With seconds left, Jordan Parkes had the chance to score the winner, but Carter made a brilliant save from Jordan Parkes.

It completed a double for Edwin Stein's side, who thumped the Hertfordshire outfit 4-0 at the Spencer Stadium in November.

The visitors bossed the opening exchanges and it was no surprise when they went ahead.

The home side made a hash of a clearance and Adeyinka Talib fired in

Hemel Hempstead
(Pearce 79)

1

Banbury Utd
(Talibi 15, Isaac 69)

2

from close range. Banbury then had a scare when Danny May broke clear, but he fired over.

Minutes later, Carter made a super stop to deny Danny May.

Kynan Isaac doubled Banbury's lead with 20 minutes to go when he slotted home.

David Pearce cut the deficit for Hemel to set up a nervous final 10 minutes, before Carter's heroics sealed victory.

Banbury Utd: Carter, Cray, R Plowright, W Plowright, Blossom, Polk, Sc Bridges, Talabi, Skendi, Isaac, Hopkins. Subs: A Dumbleton, White, Collins, Sharif.

On Thursday, United – who played much of the game with nine men – had looked like recording a remarkable win, when they took a late lead in their visit to Arlesey Town.

But the hosts scored twice to pull off a 2-1 success.

Banbury winger Warren Plowright was sent off in the 28th minute for a foul.

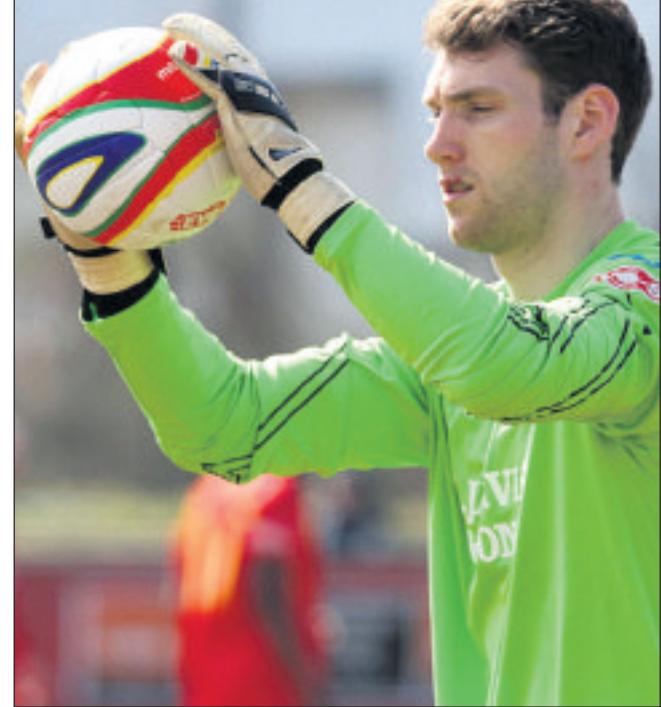
Things got worse for the Puritans in the 57th minute when full back Luke Cray was red-carded. Drew Roberts scuffed the resultant penalty.

In the 79th minute Kynan Isaac put the visitors ahead.

But the hosts equalised a minute later through Chris Marsh's header.

Then in the third minute of injury time, Leon Hibbert struck the winner.

Banbury United
goalkeeper
Warren Carter



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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Your ruling planet Mars can be your best friend and your enemy all at the same time. Firstly you've taken on more than you should, but secondly you have the energy to complete all that is now on your plate. Travel and even overseas links help you to boost your income and make your future a more secure one. Give me a call now to hear why you must cut short communication with that ex.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You've had so much to go through that I don't think you've even stopped to take a breath or ask yourself how you're feeling. You should though Libra, as it's time you gave yourself a pat on the back. You've come out the other side and a successful outcome is yours, which you should see for yourself by Friday. Ring me now to hear why it's a good time to break old habits.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

There is so much temptation around you at the moment that it must be difficult for you to move without fear of either missing out or over indulging. To get the balance right you need to think and plan what you want before you are asked. It's sure to make choosing far easier. Cancelled family plans are for a bigger reason than is at first apparent. Phone now for a message from Saturn.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Where is that shy retiring character we saw at the beginning of the month? Gone I hope, and for good this time too. I don't like it when you allow yourself to be ruled and neither do you. New attractions in love are formed and, for some of you, existing ones are strengthened by Thursday. Phone me now to hear why you can afford to invest in more extravagant travel plans.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

People will be listening when you speak this week and your words can come back on you so try not to say anything which you don't really mean. It's all very well your comeback sounding good at the time, but not if what you say can come back to haunt you for years to come. Family news at the weekend gives you back some freedom. Phone now to hear who can't stop thinking about you.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

This is a really tempestuous week for relationships, but as long as you stick to what needs to be said, rather than bring negative comments with intent to harm then you'll be alright. The truth is, you are trying to protect your vulnerable side. Others can't see this of course, but by pairing up with those you know have your back you'll feel calm and collected. Ring now for a romantic revelation.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Relationships are sacred to you and to have your trust breached is unforgivable. This week though it is a relationship which comes with more to lose than that is at stake. Let's hope the person concerned behaves, as you're not a sign which even the strongest signs in the zodiac should mess with this week. Playful offers are more serious than you think! Phone now, I have much to tell you.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

I know you're going to feel like doing what you want to do when you want to do it this week, but by sticking to arrangements and showing you can finish what you start you'll gain the respect you've been craving. Money will be forced to pay out on the home is worth the sacrifices which will come with it. Don't try to convince yourself otherwise. Phone now for strength and vision.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

You've been walked over and mistreated in the past, but from here on in you are not going to be suffering fools gladly. That doesn't mean your journey is going to be plain sailing this week, as you'll have to stand up to some pretty strong signs. Let's not forget you're a Leo though, so you'll have no problem standing your ground. Ring now to hear how a friend could soon turn into a lover.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You've put yourself out so much for someone, and even though they don't seem to appreciate your efforts you can, and should, be proud of what you've done. You've proven you do the right thing when placed in such a situation. Cash flow could be a problem and you may want to prioritise what you don't miss out on the things you really want to do. Phone me so that I can unload some of your secrets.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Your chart is open to learning and this would be an excellent time for you to further your knowledge in a subject or to open yourself to something new. Rumours which are circulated at this time may not be true, so be careful of getting caught up in something which you may end up getting the blame for starting. Give me a call now to hear how Mars favours a confessional weekend.

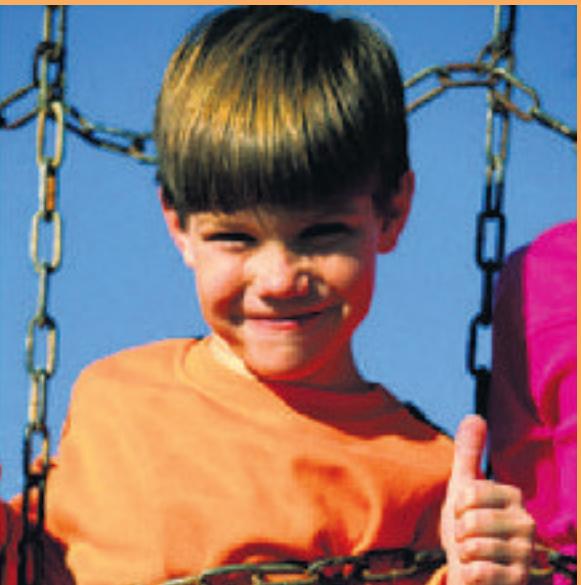
0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You have a lot you need to organize this week if you are to be able to tick off your list of responsibilities, but just make sure you're not being used as a scapegoat for those who are too lazy to do things for themselves. Gambles with money can pay off in your favour if you can show you're worth the investment. Phone now to hear why love and travel work well for you.

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HUGH Bundle of baby girls clothes, over 60 items, all age 18-24 months, very very good condition or new, consist of everything needed £25. 01295 277638 or 078717 80379

TODDLER Rugrats sleeping bag with matching pillow and storage bag, very very good condition only used handful of times £6. 01295 277638 or 078717 80379

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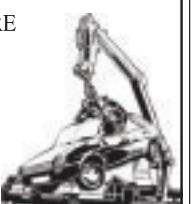
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Hybrid Yaris adds a spark to commuting

By David Duffy

ONBOARD car computers can deliver a host of information — and some of it makes for pretty depressing reading.

A recent morning commute in a seriously powerful Porsche delivered the sobering news that my 14-mile journey had been achieved at a miserable average of 21mph.

A return evening commute along the same route, at the wheel of the Toyota Yaris Hybrid, displayed the only-slightly-less-depressing figure of 22mph.

Given that these speeds — easily achievable on a bicycle — are the day-to-day reality of modern motoring for many drivers, the desire for economy rather than power becomes much clearer.

And if that economy can be delivered by an engine that can cover at least some ground without emitting any polluting gases, then the attraction of so-called hybrid vehicles starts to make a little more sense.

Make no mistake, hybrid engines that combine both electric and petrol power, are advanced, complex and, needless to say, expensive pieces of kit.

So the price tag on the flagship model for Toyota's best-selling model in Europe is hefty.

But despite that, Toyota does not

expect the French-built Yaris Hybrid to be a niche model, expecting it to claim a fifth of annual European Yaris sales.

What you get for your money is a cleverly packaged supermini which gives great fuel efficiency and low emissions, with no loss of cabin or loadspace.

The downsized hybrid system combines a re-engineered 1.5-litre petrol engine with a lighter, more compact electric motor and battery pack.

The complicated technology boils down to the potential for 70+mpg fuel consumption; no vehicle excise licence to pay and the ability to operate in all-electric mode, saving money at the pumps, with zero NOx, particulate or CO₂ tailpipe emissions.

On the road, the Yaris Hybrid is as neat, and nearly as nippy, as every other model in the range.

Auto facts

Model: Toyota Yaris Hybrid T-Spirit
Price: £17,195
Insurance group: 9E (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 76.3mpg
Top speed: 103mph
Length: 390.5cm/153.7in
Width: 169.5cm/66.7in
Luggage capacity: 10 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 7.9 gallons/36 litres
CO₂ emissions: 85g/km
Warranty: Five years/100,000 miles



FLAGSHIP MODEL: The Yaris Hybrid is well equipped and has 70mpg consumption potential

Equipment levels are high across the range, with all models fitted with seven airbags, dual-zone air conditioning, vehicle stability control with traction control, selectable electric and eco-drive modes and automatic transmission.

The touch-sensitive screen on the centre console also includes a blue-lit 'hybrid energy monitor', which can show which elements of the petrol and electric system are delivering power.

It can also switch display to show fuel consumption, 'cruising range' remaining and that often-depressing read-out of average speed.

Usedcarscene

Simple checks could avoid MoT failures

RESEARCH from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders indicates that about 1.5 million MoT failures each year could be avoided if motorists notify the dealer of simple problems with the vehicle before the annual roadworthiness test is carried out.

In the biggest campaign of its type, 5,545 manufacturer main dealers across the UK will be giving guidance to motorists on the simple pre-MoT visual checks they can carry out on their own car.

Taking just a 'Minute Or Two', the 10-step checklist takes vehicle owners through a series of quick-and-easy checks — from

headlights and tyres to windscreen wipers and fluid levels.

By forewarning the dealership of any required work in advance of the MoT, motorists can then give their vehicle the best chance of passing the test first time around.

The full 'Minute Or Two' checklist can be viewed at www.passmymot.co.uk, where visitors can also use a garage finder tool to locate their nearest dealer.

Meanwhile, Citroën has released the first details of the new C4 Picasso, highlighting its larger boot, lower emissions and two large colour displays.

The sharply-styled model, which

Citroën claims is the first compact MPV to offer the possibility to dip below the 100g/km threshold for free road tax.

A range of engines at the car's launch will include new Euro 6-compliant diesels with power outputs from 89bhp to 148bhp. Manual and automated manual gearboxes will also be available, with a traditional automatic transmission pencilled in for early 2014. The highlights of the new engine line-up include the entry-level 89bhp e-HDi with 74mpg and just 98g/km of CO₂. Arguably even better is the 148bhp BlueHDi diesel, which only emits 110g/km of CO₂.

Wheelsanddeals

■ THE SEAT Leon SC will start from £15,370 on the road when it arrives in showrooms in July. The three-door SC is £300 cheaper than the five-door Leon, and is otherwise set apart by its sportier-shaped front seats and 35mm shorter length. In a 14-variant range spanning S, SE and FR trim levels, there are five automatic options, two low-CO₂ diesels that dip below 100g/km and power outputs from 104bhp to 148bhp. No model attracts a standard road tax charge higher than £125.

■ AUDI has revealed another new addition to its range in the shape of a saloon version of its recently launched A3. Appearing at the New York motor show, the car shares the same underlying platform as the five-door A3 Sportback model, and has its sights set on challenging Mercedes-Benz's newly-launched CLA compact saloon model. The car is due to arrive in the UK this autumn.

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2005 55	RENAULT MODUS 1.4 DYNAMIQUE, 5 Door, Silver, 1 Owner, Full service history, Aircon, PAS, Electric windows, Remote central locking, Radio CD, Lovely condition, Sold with a new MOT and a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear	£2,995
2006 06	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DCI SPORTIVE (DIESEL) VAN, Silver, Exceptional condition, PAS, Radio CD, Ply lined, No vat	£2,925 (NO VAT) BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
2001 51	VW POLO 1.4 MATCH, Dark Blue, 5 Door, Local car, PAS, Aircon, Central locking, Radio/CD, Electric windows, Very good service record, Nice condition, Sold with a new cambelt a new MOT and a full service, HPI Clear	£2,495
2001 51	VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE, Silver, Leather interior, Electric hood, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Radio CD, Aircon, etc etc, Excellent condition, Local car, Sold with a new MOT and a full service and a new cam belt, HPI clear	£2,495
2003 53	CITROEN C3 1.4 SX, Silver, 5 door, PAS, Electric windows, Remote central locking, Radio CD, Lovely through out, Sold with a new MOT and a full service and a new cam belt kit, HPI clear	£2,495
2001 Y	SKODA FABIA 1.4 CLASSIC, Dark Green, 5 Door, PAS	£1,495
2000 V	NISSAN MICRA 1.0, Silver, Lovely condition, PAS, New MOT	£795
2001 Y	FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX, 4 Door Saloon Met silver/green, Remote central locking, Electric windows, Aircon, PAS, Nice condition for the year, Sold with a new MOT and a full service the car has no cam belt, HPI clear	Arriving weekend

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Motorbikes & Scooters				Land Rover		Nissan	Porsche	Volkswagen	
SUZUKI GSXF 750  1 years MOT, 6 months Tax. A few scratches on Green paintwork, but still goes like a dream. 44000 miles 07973 117527 £800 ono Cash				TD5 GS 7 DISCOVERY  Diesel, 03/53 145k miles, Just 1 former owner, epsom green, 7 seats, MOT till March 2014, manual, twin sunroofs, tow pack, Just serviced, electric windows stereo. all mot printouts. 01295 768621 07887 875826 £5950		NISSAN PRIMERA 1.8 Activ 5dr, 2002, petrol, hatchback, new Mot, excellent condition throughout, suit young professional family 07762 253024 £2500		PORSCHE BOXSTER 2.7 02 private plate, silver, Porsche history, Tax and Mot. NO CANVASSERS 07811 728264, £6,500 ono	VOLKSWAGEN POLO Tax and Mot June, 1.4, petrol, 5 door, silver, 28000 miles, e/w, cd, parking sensors, some VW service history, ex condition 07780 547448 £4,300
				MG  BRG convertible 1996, 103,000 Miles Petrol, Alarm, MOT & Tax to 30 Sept 2013 very good condition 01235 559177 £800 ono	MGF 1.8  BRG convertible 1996, 103,000 Miles Petrol, Alarm, MOT & Tax to 30 Sept 2013 very good condition 01235 559177 £800 ono	PEUGEOT 206 2002 116,000 miles, silver, 1 month's MOT, no tax. 01380 720747 £1000 ono	RELIANT RIALTO GLS 1986, tax and MOT until end of July 2013, 1 owner, good working order, 61,200 miles. 01793 486285 after 6pm £600	Reliant Motors Wanted WANTED By Retired Mechanic 1937-1960 FORD POPULAR OR ANGLIA Any Condition Considered Cash Waiting Tel: 07884 160452	
				Mini  2005, 2 owners, long tax and mot, history, Alarm, Aircon, Alloys, CD excellent condition 01869250571 £2,950	MINI COOPER  2005, 2 owners, long tax and mot, history, Alarm, Aircon, Alloys, CD excellent condition 01869250571 £2,950	Advertise Online 24/7 	Suzuki SUZUKI ALTO  W reg 2000, blue, manual, 2 owners from new, MOT & tax until June 2013, partial service history, ideal first car, 104,635 miles 01793 335670 £500	Caravans & Motorhomes BAILEY PAGEANT 6 PROVENCE BAILEY PAGEANT 6 PROVENCE 2008, 4/5 berth, motor mover plus £800 worth of accessories. Serviced. Illness sale. Very good condition. Ideal first caravan. 01249 720586 £8500	

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07/56 MINI COOPER S, MANUAL, GREY, BLUETOOTH, AIR CON, TWIN SUNROOF, CRUISE CONTROL, 42,400 MILES	SOLD	SOLD
10/10 SKODA FABIA 1.4 16V, MANUAL, RED, AIR CON, ALLOYS, FRONT ELECTRIC WINDOWS, TRIP COMPUTER, HEATED DOOR MIRRORS, 19,000 MILES	£7695	£7495
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